

Crowhurst & District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Friday 28th August 2026 at 7.15pm - Crowhurst Village Hall

Meeting opened: 7:10pm

1. Members present

Mary Boorman, Alan Humphrey, Oliver Boorman-Humphrey, Fern and Graham Burgess, Margaret and Bob Clifford, Mike and Mandy Mitchell, Christine and Steve Friday, Tim Knaggs, Tom Masters, Ann Cornwall, Rita Gower.

a. Apologies for absence

Shirley Masters

2. Minutes of the last AGM

Provided to attendees.

a. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

3. Chairman's Report

Given by Mary Boorman.

4. Treasurer's Report

Alan reported that the society finances remained in a sound state. In the last year, the society had made a small profit of around £100. He pointed out that jumble sales remained our main source of fundraising, typically making around £300 each. Tim enquired how many paid up members we have. Alan replied that the number was 30-35 which had been stable for several years.

a. Presentation of accounts

As of 28th August 2026, accounts were:

Bank: £3778.75

Cash: £1416.12

Total: £5194.87

Up £139.42 on 2025

b. Auditors

Agreed to continue with Tracey Docksey as auditor. Alan thanked Tracey for her continued support.

5. Reports from Committee Members

a. Show Secretary Report

Given by Oliver Boorman-Humphrey.

6. Election of Officer's

a. President

Position remains vacant. Mary will continue to search for a replacement as John Feltwell who was proposed as a candidate last year declined the position.

b. Chair

Mary Boorman

Proposed: Margaret Clifford

Seconded: Rita Gower

c. Show Secretary

Oliver Boorman-Humphrey

Proposed: Fern Burgess

Seconded: Tom Masters

d. Treasurer

Alan Humphrey

Proposed: Rita Gower

Seconded: Fern Burgess

e. Membership Secretary

Alan Humphrey

Proposed: Fern Burgess

Seconded: Tom Masters

7. Election of Committee

a. Honey Bee Representative

Fern Burgess

Proposed: Oliver Boorman-Humphrey Seconded: Tom Masters

8. Shows & Events

a. Feasibility of Autumn Show

Mary raised the concerns that the committee have around the feasibility of holding the Autumn Show in September, given the very hot and dry summer. She asked the floor whether they are likely to have anything to exhibit. Rita replied that she and David had nothing, Ann has some tomatoes but not much else. Tom has some veg but they're very small. Tim only has one or two things but Mandy said they have some dahlias at the moment but they may not last until the show. Christine said they had apples and rhubarb. Margaret has some tomatoes but no cucumbers and Bob will have some beetroot. Fern thought that honey should be OK. Rita suggested talking to the Primary School as they have a new head teacher so might be more interested to get involved. Mary said she had already sent them some details but no received no response.

It was proposed to continue with the show, but cancel the judges for the show and remove entry fees and prize money. Tom proposed putting this to a vote and pointed out that removing the judging might encourage others to enter as there would be less pressure. Rita suggested using the visitors of the show to pick the winners instead of judges, which Oliver will look into doing. 8 members voted for this so this was carried.

b. Proposed removal of entry fees for flower shows

Oliver discussed that one option for trying to encourage more entries is to remove the entry fees. These have been 20p for adults for at least 15 years and at this point are merely a token as they do not raise any significant revenue. Margaret agreed this was good idea. Tim queried if this would mean no judging but Oliver replied that there was no plan to permanently remove that, only the entry fees.

This was put to a vote. 8 members voted for this so this was carried.

c. Possible alternatives for Christmas social

Mary raised that it had been difficult to get people to commit to coming to the Quiz Night last year and it involved significant organisation. She asked if anyone had ideas for an alternative social around Christmas. Mandy proposed an event in January instead of December when there isn't much else going on. Mary and Christine discussed that Bexhill Gardening Group had live music at their event and did a pot luck lunch where everyone brought a dish to share. Christine also suggested having a raffle. Mary will look into a suitable date and try to find some musicians.

9. Subscriptions

a. Proposed freeze at £5 per year

Alan proposed keeping subscriptions at £5 per person per year. Agreed by the floor.

b. Any other business

Alan raised that the society owns 40 Gopak tables which are currently stored at Noela's house. These were previously used for our Summer Show which we haven't held since 2019 and cost over £100 each. Tom asked whether we have hired them out recently, but Alan stated they hadn't been hired out for several years. Alan proposed attempting to sell 10 of them. Rita suggested that the Fayre committee maybe interested in them which Alan agreed to look into. The sale was agreed by the floor.

Close of Meeting: 8:10pm